

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Bilbin, Paul et al.
Application No. : 09/684,861
Filed : October 6, 2000
Title : Apparatus, Systems and Methods for Determining Delivery Time Schedules for Each of Multiple Carriers
Grp./Div. : 3623
Examiner : Pats, Justin
Docket No. : PSTM0024/MRK

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND REMARKS IN RESPONSE
TO JULY 6, 2011 EXAMINER-PROPOSED EXAMINER AMENDMENT
AND TELEPHONE INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

1. (Previously Presented) An Internet-based shipping management computer system, said Internet-based shipping management computer system comprising at least one Internet-accessible server computer programmed, alone or in conjunction with one or more server computers, to:

receive from a client computer through an Internet-access by said client computer of said Internet-based shipping management computer system, a request by a particular user to ship a particular parcel, said request comprising a first address, a second address, parcel information, and an indication of a shipping date; and

in response to the request, determine a simultaneous potential delivery schedule and shipment rate cross-comparison, said simultaneous cross-comparison delivery schedule and shipment rate cross-comparison comprising a plurality of respective service-specific, carrier-specific delivery schedules and corresponding shipping rates to ship the particular respective parcel from the first address to the second address according to the parcel information and according to the indication of the shipping date, each respective service-specific, carrier-specific delivery schedule and corresponding shipping rate corresponding to a respective particular delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by a respective particular carrier of a plurality of carriers that would ship the particular respective parcel from the first address to the second address according to the parcel information and the indication of the shipping date, each respective service-specific, carrier-specific delivery schedule and corresponding

shipping rate comprising an indication of a respective calendar delivery date and a respective delivery time for a corresponding respective particular delivery service of the plurality of delivery services offered by a corresponding respective particular carrier of the plurality of carriers to deliver the particular respective parcel from the first address to the second address according to the indication of the shipping date, said simultaneous potential delivery schedule and shipment rate cross-comparison comprising a respective service-specific, carrier-specific delivery schedule and corresponding shipping rate for each respective particular delivery service of the plurality of delivery services offered by each respective particular carrier of the plurality of carriers that would deliver the particular respective parcel from the first address to the second address according to the indication of the shipping date; and

in further response to the request, generate an online interactive prompt for display to a display monitor configured with said client computer, said online interactive prompt comprising an interactive, two-dimensional, graphic cross-comparison display of each of said respective shipping rates for each said particular delivery service, said interactive, two-dimensional, graphic cross-comparison display of each of said respective shipping rates graphically corresponding to a display of a corresponding graphic indication of the respective calendar delivery date and the respective delivery time corresponding to the respective delivery schedule for the respective particular delivery service to deliver the particular respective parcel, said interactive, two-dimensional, graphic cross-comparison display of each of said respective shipping rates configured to display each respective shipping rate as an interactive field, each said interactive field configured for receiving a selection by the particular user of said respective shipping rate and further configured for responding to said selection with generating a shipping label for print rendering using a print rendering device in communication with said client computer, said shipping label corresponding with shipment of the particular respective parcel using a particular delivery service offered by a particular carrier associated with said respective shipping rate.

Claims 2-3 Cancelled.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A method using an Internet-based computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, said Internet-based computer system comprising at least one server computer device, the method comprising:

using the Internet-based computer system, receiving from a client computer through an Internet-access by said client computer of said Internet-based computer system, a delivery schedule information request by a particular user, said delivery schedule information request comprising a first postal code, a second postal code, parcel information and an indication of a shipping date; and

in response to the delivery schedule information request, using the Internet-based computer system to determine[[e]] a simultaneous potential delivery schedule and shipment rate cross-comparison, said simultaneous potential delivery schedule and shipment rate cross-comparison comprising a plurality of respective service-specific, carrier-specific delivery schedules and corresponding shipping rates for a respective shipment from the respective first postal code to the respective second postal code according to the parcel information and according to the indication of the shipping date, each respective service-specific, carrier specific delivery schedule and corresponding shipping rate corresponding to a particular delivery service of a plurality of services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers that would ship the particular respective parcel from the first address to the second address according to the parcel information and the indication of the shipping date, each respective service-specific, carrier-specific delivery schedule and corresponding shipping rate comprising an indication of a respective calendar delivery date and a respective delivery time for a corresponding respective particular delivery service of the plurality of delivery services offered by a corresponding respective particular carrier of the plurality of carriers to deliver the particular respective parcel from the first postal code to the second postal code according to the indication of the shipping date, said simultaneous potential delivery schedule and shipment rate cross-comparison comprising a respective service-specific, carrier-specific delivery schedule and corresponding shipping rate for each respective particular delivery service of the plurality of delivery services offered by each respective

particular carrier of the plurality of carriers that would deliver the particular respective parcel from the first postal code to the second postal code according to the indication of the shipping date; and

in further response to the delivery schedule information request, using the Internet-based computer system to generate an online interactive prompt for display to a display monitor configured with said client computer, said online interactive prompt comprising an interactive, two-dimensional, graphic cross-comparison display of each of said respective shipping rates for each said particular delivery service, said interactive, two-dimensional, graphic cross-comparison display of each of said respective shipping rates graphically corresponding to a display of a corresponding graphic indication of the respective calendar delivery date and the respective delivery time corresponding to the respective delivery schedule for the respective particular delivery service to deliver the particular respective parcel, said interactive, two-dimensional, graphic cross-comparison display of each of said respective shipping rates configured to display each respective shipping rate as an interactive field, each said interactive field configured for receiving a selection by the particular user of said respective shipping rate and further configured for responding to said selection with generating a shipping label for print rendering using a print rendering device in communication with said client computer, said shipping label corresponding with shipment of the particular respective parcel using a particular delivery service offered by a particular carrier associated with said respective shipping rate.

Claims 5-24 Cancelled.

25. (Currently Amended) The Internet-based shipping management computer system of Claim 1, ~~wherein said online interactive prompt is configured for said at least one Internet-accessible server computer further programmed, alone or in conjunction with one or more server computers to:~~

~~receive[ing]~~ an indication by the particular user of a selection of a particular respective shipping rate; and

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Amendment*

respond[[ing]] to the indication by the particular user of the selection of the particular respective shipping rate with a printing of a shipping label for shipment of the particular respective parcel using a particular delivery service offered by a particular carrier associated with the particular respective shipping rate and the corresponding respective calendar delivery date and respective delivery time.

Claim 26 Cancelled.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, the method further comprising:
 using the Internet-based computer system, receive an indication by the particular user of a selection of a particular respective shipping rate; and
 using the Internet-based computer system, respond to the indication by the particular user of the selection of the particular respective shipping rate with a printing of a shipping label for shipment of the particular respective parcel using a particular delivery service offered by a particular carrier associated with the particular respective shipping rate and the corresponding respective calendar delivery date and respective delivery time.

Claims 28-32 Cancelled.

RESPONSE REMARKS AND TELEPHONE INTERVIEW SUMMARY

The Examiner-initiated telephone interview on July 6, 2011, and the reply telephone interview with the Examiner on July 13, 2011 are gratefully acknowledged with appreciation. It is respectfully submitted that the substance of the telephone interviews is reflected in the amendments to the Claims made herewith and in the remarks made below. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner include in the proposed Examiner's amendment an indication that no further summary by Applicants of the above-mentioned Examiner-initiated telephone interviews is required.

The Examiner proposed to do an Examiner's Amendment to potentially put the case in condition for allowance. In particular, the Examiner proposed to cancel independent Claim 10 and its dependent Claims; independent Claim 29 and its dependent Claims; and Claims 24-27, which are dependent on Claims 1 and 4.

In response to the Examiner's proposed Examiner Amendment, Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications directed to any and/or all of the Claims cancelled from the present application; having reserved those rights, independent Claim 10 and its dependent Claims, independent Claim 29 and its dependent Claims, and Claims 24 and 26 are proposed herewith to be cancelled by the Examiner-proposed Examiner's amendment.

A minor amendment to Claim 4 is proposed herewith to correct a typographical error.

Further, an amendment to the preamble to Claim 25 is proposed herewith to remove the "configured for" language. As compared to the "configured for" (receiving and printing) limitations in Claims 1 and 4, Claim 25 (as amended) and Claim 27 claim receiving a selection and responding to the selection with printing a shipping label. It is respectfully submitted that the limitations claimed by Claim 25 (as amended) and Claim 27 are not included in their respective independent Claims 1 and 4.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner-proposed Examiner Amendment make the amendments proposed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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